October 3, 2026

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date for a workshop at 8;02 a.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Curt Collins, Wayne Griffith and Jeff Harman. Also present were Jeremy Bozeman, Jiffy Dukes, Bill Ruby, Scott McCoy, Jerry Kidd and Michael Searcy. The workshop was opened with a prayer from Jeremy Bozeman followed by the pledge to the American flag.

Under Public Comments, Jiffy Dukes informed everyone of his recent visit to the Skeeter brush truck plant to pick up the new truck for the Laneville VFD. The truck is currently at Pinnacle fleet to have a radio installed but would be in service next week. Everyone was glad to hear that this truck was out of production and delivered to the department. Their oldest brush truck was now at the ESD building and would be auctioned off in the near future.

The Board then opened up for discussion all items pertaining to the ESD in an effort to bring new Board Member Jeff Harman up to speed on what was happening in the fire District in Rusk County. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to: Responding to email and text messages from the Board Secretary-the need to do so; how the district had met and exceeded transparency in financial records and had set up at least 2 checks and balances on every transaction in an effort to be transparent; conflicts of interest from the Board Members and how this addressed through legal advice and procedures; adhering to the Open Meetings Acts and how to NOT respond to anyone during Public Comments, and how to not create a walking quorum or a situation that could be interpreted as a quorum; the rules that apply to Executive Sessions and that the ESD only did these sessions when they were absolutely necessary; dealing with volunteers, their complaints and the difference between a need and a want; how long term planning was critical; QR stations and the need to have engineered plans, adequate staffing, adequate equipment, prime locations, and a clear plan on implementing each station to meet the needs of the community first and surrounding departments secondly; building a volunteer compensation program for future use; improvements at stations and the need to have a clear deed at these locations before investing funds; Cost sharing with cities and how we must have an ILA on any future city cost share to protect the ESD investment; the use of AI in the District and the pros and cons and possible need for a policy; and the required training for all ESD Board Members. All of these subjects were discussed in length by everyone present at the workshop.

After more than 2 hours of open discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. With a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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Secretary President is